



Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs

Building partnerships to enhance intergovernmental relations, social and economic prosperity for the 22 Indian Tribes/Nations of Arizona

August 2008

ACIA's MONTHLY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STATE GOVERNMENT AND ARIZONA INDIAN COUNTRY

28th Annual Arizona Indian Town Hall

sponsored by First Nations Development Institute was held on July 14, 15, and 16th in Carefree, Arizona and was a great success!

The event started out with a well attended pre-session on Protecting, Promoting and Profiting from Native Creative Works by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board. Various experts spoke on a variety of topics in two very full sessions that lasted all afternoon.

The first day of the Arizona Indian Town Hall started out with lunch and a keynote address by San Carlos Apache Chairman Wensler Nosie, who gave a rousing speech about the Mt. Graham issue, among other things. Following this, participants broke out into sessions to begin their discussions on this year's issue of Protecting Land and Water.

The second day of events included breakfast and continued discussion sessions. Lunch gathered everyone back together for a very enlightening keynote by Debby Tewa the Renewable & Tribal Energy Coordinator, from the Energy Office at the Arizona Department of Commerce. She talked about renewable energy sources such as solar power and how the concept of renewable energy meshed well with tribal values.

The third and final day of Arizona's Indian Town Hall was a very full day. After breakfast attendees participated in the final discussion sessions and each group was joined by former Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell who participated in the various discussions, which ended at lunch.

The keynote address at lunch was given by Royce Jenkins, the Director of the Office of Community Planning and Economic Development for the Hopi Tribe, who spoke on the importance of land and water from his professional perspective and the importance of using the town hall process and the town hall report to create positive change in Indian Country.



Simon Ortiz listens to the Keynote by Royce Jenkins.

Following lunch, Traci Morris, the Program Specialist for ACIA, gave a report on last year's town hall and what had happened since to all participants and the Discussion Session Facilitators shared information about each of their respective sessions. Prior to dinner, there was an Evening Social, hosted by the Southwestern Institute for the Education of Native Americans (SIENA). The closing dinner was enjoyable and included awards given out to this year's award winners—ACIA Legislator of the Year: Rep. Albert Tom; ACIA Directors Leadership Award: Kristine Thomas, GOEO Tribal Liaison; ACIA Chairman's Leadership Award: Rep. Marian McClure—and a Keynote address by Representative Albert Tom.



ACIA Board Chair Lucinda Hughes-Juan discusses an issue with former Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell.

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SPECIAL!!!

2007-2008 Arizona Tribal/Urban Indian

Community Resource Directory

at the reduced rate of \$10 (previously \$15)

Contact Lorie Wells at:

Lorie.wells@azcia.gov Or 602-254-3123

To add your event to the Newsletter Calendar or the ACIA website calendar please contact:

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Spotlight on Tribal Liaisons: Michael L. Klier, Deputy Director of Arizona Dept of Veterans Services

Michael Klier graduated from Bishop Luers High School in 1968; Found his way in to the military and served from 1968 to 1974, Mike is a Vietnam veteran and upon his discharge utilized the GI bill and obtained a Associates degree in the field of Engineering.

Mike has owned and operated the Mike Klier School of Karate here in Phoenix, Arizona for the last 15 years where he has produced many State, National and World champions. He was inducted in to the United States Karate Alliance Hall of Fame in 1997 and in to the USA Hall of Fame in 2001.

Mike accepted an appointment to serve as the Deputy Director for the Arizona Department of Veteran Services where his responsibilities range statewide, with the primary focus on the Veteran Services Division, but to also include the State Veteran Cemetery and is the agency liaison to the Native American community.

With good standing in the American Legion, The Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Mike Klier has presented himself and has stood strong on the core belief that if it weren't for veterans, we wouldn't have the Freedoms we enjoy today to be who it is that we truly believe we are, and the opportunity because of those Freedoms to express and live our dreams.



Save the Date Announcements

5th Annual Native American Alzheimer's Conference on September 12, 2008. Hosted by Banner Health. Contact: Rose-Ann.Barton@bannerhealth.com

Governor's Rural and Regional Development Conference on September 24-26, 2008. Hosted by the Arizona Department of Commerce and the Arizona Association for Economic Development. Info TBA

Wilma Mankiller, former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation and internationally known Native rights activist, will deliver the second Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture and Community at the Heard Museum on Thursday, October 2, 2008. The topic is "Challenges Facing 21st Century Indigenous People." For more information, visit www.heard.org

Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Conference on October 16th & 17th. Hosted by the Indian Legal Program at ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor's School of Law. <http://ilp.law.asu.edu/>

3rd Annual Native American Fatherhood Conference on October 27-30th, 2008. Hosted by Native American Fatherhood and Families Association (NAFFA) www.nativeamericanfathers.org

ASU West Campus Veteran's Day Weekend Traditional Pow-Wow. Hosted by ASU West Campus. westevents@asu.edu or 602-543-5306.

32nd Annual Pueblo Grande Museum Art Market on December 13 & 14, 2008. Contact: www.pgindianmarket.com

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H.R. 6583, The Tribal Law and Order Act of 2008

H.R. 6583 would amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 2000, and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the prosecution of, and response to, crimes in Indian country.

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman Byron Dorgan (D-ND) introduced bipartisan legislation, called the Tribal Law and Order Act, to fight staggering crime levels in Indian Country. Twelve of his colleagues have joined as co-sponsors of the bill. The legislation is designed to boost law enforcement efforts by providing tools to tribal justice officials to fight crime in their own communities, improving coordination between law enforcement agencies, and increasing accountability standards.

The legislation is Dorgan's next step in his fight against high crime rates in American Indian communities. Earlier this year, he organized a request from the North Dakota and South Dakota congressional delegations for more law enforcement resources on the Standing Rock Reservation. In response, the BIA announced an initiative called "Operation Dakota Peacekeeper," which transferred 20 full-time officers to serve Standing Rock. Officials have reported that arrests have increased and crime on the reservation has dropped.

In North Dakota, the violent crime rate on the Spirit Lake Nation is seven times the national average, and violent crime on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation is 5.5 times the national average.

"We are seeing crime levels on some Indian reservations reach epidemic proportions. Studies predict that more than one in three Native American women will be raped in their lifetimes, and two in five will be victims of physical abuse. Drug traffickers are targeting Indian Reservations as safe havens because of the lack of police presence and the disjointed system of justice that is in place," said Dorgan, who has held five hearings on this issue.

"Clearly, we can't solve this problem overnight, but this legislation is a big step in fighting violent crime on Indian reservations. American Indians deserve to feel safe in their homes, and safe in their communities."

Dorgan's legislation aims to improve law and order efforts by:

- Enhancing coordination between the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and tribal communities about the investigation and prosecution of Indian country crimes.
- Encouraging more aggressive prosecution of reservation crimes at the federal level. Between 2004 and 2007, the United States declined to prosecute 62 percent of Indian country criminal cases referred to federal prosecutors.
- Enhancing the sentencing authority of tribal courts to punish offenders with up to three years imprisonment. Current law limits tribal court sentencing authority to no more than one year
- Expanding programs that authorize tribal police to make arrests for all crimes committed on Indian lands, and that provide direct access to national crime databases to arm police with vital criminal history information about suspects.
- Investing in existing programs meant to improve courts, jails, youth programs, and policing efforts in Indian Country.
- Addressing the epidemic of domestic violence and sexual assault in Indian Country by enhancing training and coordination to aid the investigation and prosecution of crimes of sexual violence.

"It is difficult to overstate the problems facing Indian Country on the matter of law and order," said Dorgan. "We need more law enforcement, better facilities, improved coordination, and additional accountability at the state, federal and tribal levels. I will be pushing the Senate to take quick action on this vitally important piece of legislation."